



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Long Beach Man Sentenced to Prison for Sexual Attacks on Women

A 22-year-old man was sentenced yesterday to 51 years in state prison for raping one woman and assaulting another in 2014, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

At Tuesday's court appearance, Raymond Demetrius Howard of Long Beach pleaded no contest to three felony counts in case NA099592: forcible rape, forcible oral copulation and assault with intent to commit a felony.

The defendant also admitted a special allegation that he committed great bodily injury on both victims. Also, Howard admitted that he used a deadly and dangerous weapon during the first attack and that he personally used a firearm during the commission of the second offense.

In addition to the prison sentence, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Laura Laesecke also ordered the defendant to register as a lifetime sex offender.

Deputy District Attorney Kelly Kelley of the Victim Impact Program, who prosecuted the case, said on June 18, 2014, Howard met a woman and tried to rape her at Signal Hill Park. Although the victim was physically assaulted, she fought back and escaped, the prosecutor added.

Less than two weeks later, Howard followed a woman from a bus stop into an alley where he beat her, forcibly raped her and forced her to orally copulate him. When a car drove by, the victim broke free from Howard and ran to a nearby gas station, the prosecutor said.

As a result of the brutal attacks, several law enforcement agencies began a joint investigation and were able to identify Howard as the suspect.

On July 3, 2014, Howard was arrested at his home and charged in connection with the attacks.

The case was investigated by the Long Beach Police Department.

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### **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.